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Senate passes Toy legislation to aid disabled veterans

LANSING – The Michigan Senate last week unanimously approved bipartisan legislation sponsored by Sen. Laura Toy, R-Livonia, which would make it easier for companies owned by disabled veterans to secure state contracts.

“Michigan’s veterans have risked their lives to defend our nation’s freedom, and many have the scars and disabilities to show for it,” said Toy. “As Michigan’s economy continues to lag behind the nation’s in the face of a changing global landscape, now more than ever, we must continue to help these individuals who have made such enormous sacrifices.”

Senate Bill 303, sponsored by Toy, would require that preference in awarding state contracts be given to qualified disabled veterans. It would also set a goal that not less than 3 percent of total state expenditures for construction, goods, and services are awarded to qualified disabled veterans.

Under a companion bill, the Department of Management and Budget would be required to report to the Legislature each year on its progress towards awarding state contracts to disabled veterans and other persons with disabilities.

“We have had similar laws on the books in the past, yet goals have never been met, and reporting requirements have never been honored,” Toy said. “That is the wrong message to send to our state’s veterans and disabled citizens. This needed legislation will now fill that void.”

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